

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 729

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize The NASCAR Foundation and its NASCAR Day program.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay homage to those sterling organizations, and their individual members, which perform their duties with extraordinary dedication and diligence, as exemplary public servants; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, these praiseworthy individuals have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents in order to perpetuate the public good and are credits to their respective professions, their communities, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the individuals involved with The NASCAR Foundation and its NASCAR Day are one such noteworthy group of people, wholly deserving of special praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, the France family, who are the sole owners of NASCAR, has been highly regarded for its generous contributions to charitable organizations, and it is that generosity which helped spark the creation of The NASCAR Foundation in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the charitable organization stems from the NASCAR Day program that Sandy Marshall, Executive Director of The NASCAR Foundation, spearheaded, and it strives to use the popularity of NASCAR racing to make a difference in the lives of those in need by organizing initiatives that lead to increased fan involvement and assisting drivers with their private foundations; and

WHEREAS, the most successful of these initiatives is NASCAR Day, which raises funds through corporate donations and the sale of lapel pins; the idea for the special day originated from a brainstorming session five years ago at the Victory Junction Gang Camp, where the NASCAR Day name was coined by President of the International Speedway Corporation Lesa France Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, by just donating five dollars year, a fan is given a lapel pin which he or she can wear; the proceeds from NASCAR Day are distributed to several worthy charitable organizations, including the American Heart Association, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Victory Junction Gang and Camp; and

WHEREAS, this year's NASCAR Day will take place on May 16, 2008, with country music star Garth Brooks serving as the spokesperson; and

WHEREAS, The NASCAR Foundation continues to involve the fans in special events, such as teaming up with the National Marrow Donor Program and Jimmie Johnson to either donate blood or register themselves for the marrow registry; and

WHEREAS, The NASCAR Foundation also helps drivers establish their own charitable foundations and continues to play an integral part once the charity is established by donating money, marketing the drivers' special events, and holding monthly conference calls with the charities and an industry expert; to date, the foundation has helped NASCAR drivers Kasey Kahne, Greg Biffle, and Jamie McMurray organize their foundations; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, The NASCAR Foundation will continue to grow during its third year of operation by collecting all of the money generated from driver fines, which amounted to nearly one million dollars in 2007, and disbursing it among its programs and the drivers' charities; and

WHEREAS, The NASCAR Foundation is truly a great organization with a tradition of being a catalyst for positive change throughout its history; and

WHEREAS, the individuals associated with The NASCAR Foundation should be specially recognized for their impeccable public service and many superb charitable contributions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and salute the individuals involved with The NASCAR Foundation, applauding the positive impact the group has made in society, paying tribute to this esteemed organization's NASCAR Day, and extending our best wishes for success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.